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CLAUDE T. ELLIS, M. C.
SECOND DISTRICT
ARKANSAS

POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS

COMMITTEES
RIVERS AND HARBORS
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
ON CLAIMS

SECRETARIES:
DAVID S. BAKER
DOTT WEBB
ALICE DEAN BAKER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

September 18, 1941
Bentonville, Arkansas

Hon. C. G. "Crip" Hall
Secretary of State
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear "Crip":

It is my honor to deliver to you herewith an old and ancient document, heretofore stolen from the Archives of our great State, entitled, "An Act to strike out certain words wherever they occur in the Laws of this State and insert others in lieu thereof," and which Act further reads as follows:

"Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that whenever the words "United States" occur in any of the Laws of this State, that they shall be considered obsolete and the words "Confederate States" be substituted in their stead. Sec. 2. Be it further enacted That this Act be in force from and after its passage."

This is the enrolled bill and is signed, "Bradley Bunch, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thos. Fletcher, President of the Senate, Approved, November 14th, 1861, H. M. Rector," the then Governor.

On the face of the bill has been penciled "No. 17", a line drawn through that and a new number assigned, "No. 18."

On the back of the document appear the words, "Originated in the House of Representatives, E. B. Blanks, Enrolling Clerk."

Also on the back there appears the following in ink:

"Original Act of the Rebel Legislature of the State of Arkansas, November 14, 1861 -- striking out the words "United States" wherever they occur in the laws of the State and inserting "Confederate States". Presented by Capt. James M. Bowler of 3d Minnesota Regt., Little Rock, September 13th, 1862."

CLYDE T. ELLIS, M. C.
THIRD DISTRICT
ARKANSAS

HOME ADDRESS
BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS

COMMITTEES.
RIVERS AND HARBORS
ROADS
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
WAR CLAIMS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

SECRETARIES:
DAVID S. BAKER
DOTT WEBB
ALICE DEAN BAKER

I discovered this document in a collection which Congressman Usher L. Burdick of North Dakota was holding to sell for the estate of Ignatius Donally, so Mr. Burdick told me. Mr. Donally was a writer, historian and collector of historical documents. Mr. Burdick tells me that Donally told him that he obtained the document from the Union officer who took it from the official files in Arkansas.

Hon. Lee Seamster, Chancery Judge, of Fayetteville and I purchased the document through Congressman Burdick and from the estate of Ignatius Donally. It is my honor and my pleasure to hereby present it to you as the Secretary of State of Arkansas to be properly filed with the Archives of our great state.

Yours sincerely,

CLYDE T. ELLIS

CTE:dw

Original Act of the Rebel Legislature of the State of Arkansas — Nov: 14th 1861. — Striking out the words "United States" wherever they occur in the laws of the State and inserting "Confederate States".

Presented by Capt. James M. Bowler of 3d Minnesota Regt: Little Rock — Sept: 13th 1863. —

Engrossed in the House of Representatives
A B Blunts
Enrolling Clerk

No 18

No 17

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Approved November 14th 1861

M. Leach

Binding Bound,
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Thos. Hill
President
of the Senate